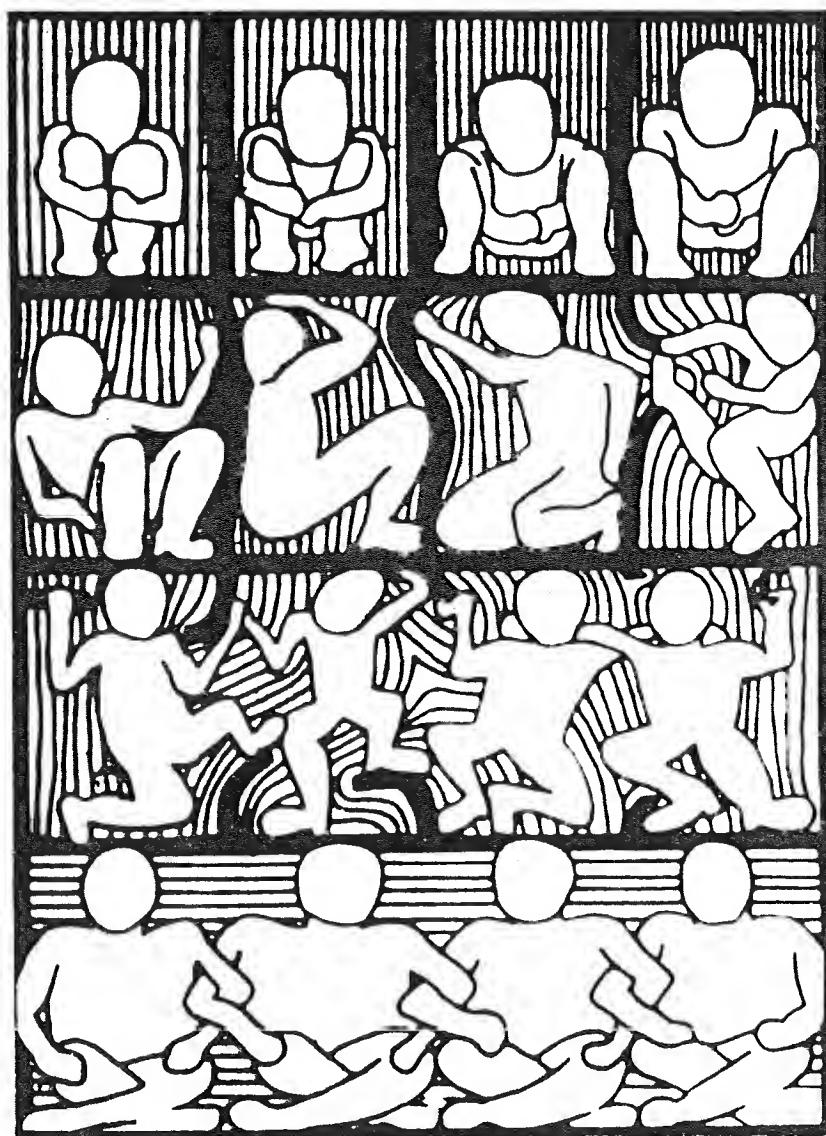


# *Aotearoa Youth Network*



Number 17, October 1994.

# WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 120 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

**Deadline: 20th November.**

Write to AYN at:  
c/ - The Web Resource Centre  
111 Moray Place  
Dunedin.

## Activism and Employment - part 3.

### TOP UPS.

Now for a sticky one. To top up the dole or not? And if so, how much?

Lets take it as given that taking precious campaign funds for your wages when the dole could be paying at least some of it is a great waster of fundraising time, not to mention the money.

But more than that money and paid positions have the potential to be divisive. If you turn up at a place as a volunteer and all the others are getting paid there's no denying there's a gap between you. You're there because you want to achieve something whether you get paid for it or not. However the others probably wouldn't be there if they weren't being paid. For this reason I can never see lots of people working voluntarily full time for professional organisations. Who would want to work for free when others doing the same things as you are on \$500 a week? It would be too big a gulf. Come to think of it, what paid campaigner would want a situation like that?

Being lean is to our advantage. With the dole, funding is unconditional. There's no waiting around before you can start and so you avoid unwieldy employing committees, job squatters, jealousy and all the other side effects of professionalism. Dole activists are able to work far more democratically and freely than the professional type. The idea that activists work "for" someone or something is exactly the type of officious (or subservient) attitude that is topping initiative. Where's the kind of entrepreneurial energy that people find when it comes to making money?

It's complicated though.

Take me (!). Normally I had no need for more than the dole. Right now, though, I do need more. Were I to be working as an activist again and getting a top up, others would almost certainly be less willing to work for nothing. What to do? Ask people if they've got a good reason to have the extra money? No way. Pay everyone for everything they do? Impossible.

Personally I think it's the simplest, and best, in the long run, to pay small top ups to full time activists only and if someone wants to save big bikkies they can take time off to go on an earning spree. Say you earn \$30,000 a year. The you'd be pretty dopey not to save \$20,000 of that. Not too much time need be lost, and the break would probably be refreshing.

What happens remains to be seen. Whatever these are some of the things to weigh up. If you're going to get into the money, it's as well to be aware of its corrosive effect.

### HANDY TIPS FOR STAYING ON THE DOLE.

- C.V.'s. Some people fear that a period without a paid job will leave their CV's embarrassingly empty. I'm sure such worries would evaporate once you're out of the corporate culture. But all you do is write down what you've been doing in corporese and make up an impressive salary. Give them bullshit if that's what they ask for.
- "Giddyday! What do you do?" When somebody asks you this DON'T say you're on the dole. For heaven's sake!
- And when being arrested ...

It's best not to say you're "unemployed". All things considered I'm a self employed gardener while in custody. I do, after all, like gardening. If a fine is on the way that's the time to quickly explain you're a poverty stricken beneficiary.

- Work schemes. It always perplexes me how a person can be angst ridden politicising on the dole but quite happy bucking the system on a Govt. work scheme. You'd think if they don't look to the government for authority on politics they wouldn't look to them for an authorised pay cheque. Good to use work schemes though both as a device to earn extra money and to allay any suspicions in the Employment Service that you're malingering.
- Transferring to paid activist positions. If working on the dole doesn't bother you, DON'T take a paid activist position just because it's going and you're available. Do the work if you're the only one around with the skills to do it, but don't take the money. Your family and friends might congratulate you on getting a proper job, but you'd be a fool because all you would have done is reduced your numbers by one. Let someone who can't be persuaded to work for free take it.
- Signing the form. Some people feel that they are lying when they sign the bit on the dole for which says "I am willing and able to work". No need to bother your conscience. You are working and taking, I might add, far less money out of the system than if you were in a paid job.

## MORALS AND THE NEED FOR DISCRETION

Some eyebrows will have been raised by now at the deviousness

of all this. Unfortunately it is necessary. Halting the destruction and misery wrought by our insane civilisation and beginning better things is a job for the sane. That the insane masquerading to their jobs and sleepwalking along in their respectably destructive lives don't approve of what we're doing or how we keep ourselves fed and sheltered is unfortunate, but we mustn't let it stop us. Would a doctor wait for the consent of a violently insane patient before beginning treatment? The patient may kick and scream but the time comes when it will be quiet and perhaps even grateful.

Until that day arrives for our patients, quiet fortitude is required - the operative word being 'quiet'.

Despite the cynicism that's around, the dole is given in good faith and we must take it in good faith. I'm not giving this advice so people can skive off on jet holidays, or but new toys. The golden rule for us all, whether we're taking \$140 a week out of the system or \$600 in a paid job, is not to be greedy. To those people who disapprove of people voluntarily being on the dole, I ask them "Would they rather we took someone else's job?" Somebody who needs, psychologically or otherwise, a paid job more than us. Would they prefer to see less done to keep things on this planet humane. You establishment critics, if you are worried about bludgers you'd do better worrying less about how much people on the dole get to eat and instead concentrate on stock exchange parasites and such like who seek to siphon as much money out of the system for as little in return as possible and call their thieving 'enterprise'. There are the bludgers. These are the people setting the pace for the destruction of our planet and who will walk all over anyone if there's a buck in it and it's not too messy on their shoes.

Strong words, but words it's very important, that at some stage get said widely, and publicly. In the

meantime, I firmly believe it's important to demonstrate to the people we live amongst that the simple life is the happiest life and that as a value system, money will get us nowhere. Eating - Working - Spending - Sleeping. In the end, when everyone gets sick of that, we'll have done ourselves out a job.

Till then, all the best for your stable and rewarding careers - on the dole.

## 6 EASY STEPS TO WORK LESS AND SAVE MORE.

1. Nowadays, spending time with people always seems to involve spending money. Going to cafes, the pictures, even popping around to see someone via the bottle store. Then there's those presents that get wrapped and given to someone else, and those cards you buy when you could have made one yourself. Loose spenders could save thousands simply by ignoring ads and thinking of things to do and give that don't cost money. \$3000 dollars a year saved (at least).
2. Make your own lunch and practically never eat or drink out. \$30 a week saved, or \$1500 a year.
3. Resist Telecom and Clear's cynical campaigns to make you believe you have to wring people to show you love them. \$300 a year saved.
4. Because you don't have the money you can't be persuaded to fly to Christchurch or up to Auckland for a wedding or a party. If you absolutely must, you hitch or jack up a ride. \$500 - 1000 saved.
5. Even if you spend \$20 a week on taxis, it's still cheaper than owning a car. Without a car friends take the airport bus, supermarkets deliver, or you bundle your groceries home in a taxi. Be sure to fill up that tank generously with gas if you borrow someone else's car because they're expensive. By becoming less dependant on cars you can save big money. \$2000

saved.

6. Then of course there's growing your own vegetables. It actually doesn't save you much but then money isn't everything.

Total saved \$5000. It's only start but you'd work for 3 months in most jobs to earn that much. Add a bit of part time work here and there to top up your bank account and you're away laughing. Living on the dole is perfectly feasible.

**Apologies are due as there was a misunderstanding and the first part of this article was printed when it was only a first draft. Parts two and three in this issue and in last month's issue have been proof-read by the author.**

## **Ngaa Kaiwhakanekeneke:**

A new newsletter is being produced by John Tovey from 30 Gavin Road, Raumati.

Ph: (04) 297-2216.

The first newsletter covers such issues as:

- The Crown's Settlement Proposals.
- Reactions of a Paakehaa.
- Te Reo Maaori Day of Action.
- Te Kawai Maaroo.
- Brief Update on GATT.
- What Ngaa Kaiwhakanekeneke is about.

If you send a donation with your address to the address above you will receive the newsletters.

# **Challenging Sexual Stereotypes - a Male Perspective**

As a white, upper class male who has chosen to challenge the conventions and privileges of my upbringing and position, in at least a small way, I find that I am not challenged enough by those around me to account for the ways that I act. In this case, I'm speaking particularly about the way that I relate to, think about, and act towards women. In the environment that I live in (middle class white students) and work in ('activism' and university), I am usually expected and often presumed to act in a non sexist way. This, for many, has become part of the status quo, expected and assumed. At least, this is what it appears on the surface - events are always challenging this.

Yet I find that while I am expected to 'know' about feminism, about the perspective of 'women', and about the ways in which I can challenge my (and others) patriarchal, oppressive behaviour, there is little to actually challenge me or make me do this. While I have read / talked / experienced a number of things which have caused such reactions, there is no constant reminder, no constant accounting of my behaviour. My examination of myself is partial, as hoc and too often from only my viewpoint, or as a comfortable patronising "at least I don't do what he does" attitude.

Men, no matter how 'nice' or non sexist they are, are in a position of power over women, and benefit from patriarchy. We will not give this power and privilege up easily. Nor should we use this as an excuse to say - ok, I'll just do what you say. Which is not only a cop out, but ignoring any the need for

any real change. Accepting what others say blindly, even if you are the oppressor, is patronising and if anything reinforces your power - who can choose to in effect ignore someone / something. So we need to be challenged and confronted, and to challenge and confront ourselves, constantly.

I don't think that this is happening. Rather, the constant media / cultural / ideological reinforcement that we receive of our power is possibly bigger than any challenge that we face. For example, pomography, for me (and I believe most men, if not all), serves to reinforce often unknown feelings and attitudes that we, as men, can dominate and control any woman, and that our sexuality is based upon the oppression of women. I'm mostly talking about so called 'soft' porn, the sort we see every single day, which usually goes unchallenged. I think that most men, often unconsciously and in spite of themselves, receive and integrate such messages into their ways of acting.

So why do I feel that we are in this position, and what can we do about it? One of the challenges of the Women's movement to men is that we account for our actions and change them. I'm not sure that this is happening any more, at least in a systematic and open or structured way. It is of course happening all the time in other forms. I think that we need to look again at how we can mount such challenges in a way that will allow women to put forward their perspective and to have some control over how men act. I'm guess I'm talking here about men in the 'movement' -

different strategies are needed for different situations and different levels of politicisation. As men, we also need to tackle our actions and to seek ways of achieving positive change. And we have our own problems and crises that we need to resolve, such as finding out if there is a positive 'male' identity. We need to discuss how we feel about the feminist movement, and whether we can only be supporters of it, or have our own important role to play as participants. Some of us have been in positions of powerlessness such as being raped.

I suppose all this has been said before, and will be said again. Yet it's a debate that doesn't seem to be around at the moment in any obvious way. I'd like to see responses to this from people, and to see some ideas (old and new) be put forward about how we can challenge patriarchy, in our day to day lives and on a wider 'political' scale.

• Joss  
Debreceeny.



Dear AYN,  
These two books are superb!  
Regards, Chris Harris.  
**BEYOND THE WASTE LAND.**  
**A Democratic Alternative To**  
**Economic Decline.** Samuel  
Bowles, David M. Gordon and  
Thomas E. Weisskopf. (1986)

'This book is by the three most  
interesting economists of the left in  
the United States...or  
anywhere...today. The persuaded  
should read it for further instruc-  
tion; the unpersuaded will miss it  
at their peril and loss.'  
John Kenneth Galbraith.

**AFTER THE WASTE LAND. A**  
**Democratic Economics for the**  
**Year 2000.**  
Samuel Bowles, David M. Gordon  
and Thomas E. Weisskopf.  
(1990)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Haiti

### Democracy cannot be imported!

"The message of the United States to the Haitian dictators is clear: Your time is up. Leave now or we will force you from power." - President Bill Clinton, 16 September 1994.

The world - not only the American people - stood transfixed, all ears and eyes glued to their TV sets, listening to the chief of the world police, President Clinton, announce yet another noble and humane mission: to restore democracy to the tiny island-nation of Haiti and end the reign of terror that the military dictatorial regime has inflicted to its impoverished people. Deja vu! This has happened before. Hadn't it just been sometime ago when the US sent troops to Somalia? And wasn't it a few months ago that the US was ready to send its high tech war machinery to teach North Korea some lessons on democracy?

### Not the First or the Last

This is not the first time that the US will 'right the wrongs' in Haiti. Despite the political violence that swept Haiti the whole of the 19th century, foreign investors gained their way to Haitian markets by building roads, ports and buying plantations. The development of infrastructure and telecommunication led to faster extraction of the island's wealth with the profits going to the industrialised countries. The unfair trading exchange led the island to debt until it became wholly dependant on creditors who were mostly Americans. A period of civil war, political instability and economic crises swept Haiti until 1915, when US marines came to restore order in the tiny island after the Haitian president was hacked

to death in an orgy of violence.

In reality, the US occupied Haiti to make sure that it can pay back its US\$ 21.5 million debt. A nationalist revolt was suppressed by the US enabling it to control the country until it had to pull out in 1934 due to a strong Haitian revolt. Coup after coup staged by the national army dislodged and lodged one president after another until 1957, when Francois Duvalier (Papa Doc), a middle class doctor, seized power supported by the army and the US.

Papa Doc, and later on his son, Jean-Claude (Baby Doc), backed by Washington ruled the island for 30 years. Estimates say that over 40,000 were murdered by Baby Doc's regime. In 1986, enveloped by a growing wave of protests and strikes, baby Doc fled from the country aboard a US air force airplane.

### No Blood for Votes

Democracy is far from the agenda of the US invasion of Haiti then or presently. Of course, there are also other reasons to justify the US intervention such as the upcoming congressional elections in November, the increasing number of Haitian refugees, who are considered an economic burden, while the Cuban's are considered political refugees.

The media hype towards the impending invasion follow closely the US' invasion tactics in the past. Often the armchair viewers - the general public - is transfixed by the sight and hype of a 'feel good' war. And there is never much interest after the dust of war settles and all that is left are rubble, casualties and dead people. In Kuwait, Operation Desert Storm managed to get rid of the Iraqi forces, but the monarchic family continues to be in

control and hostile towards democracy. In Somalia, the chaos continues with trigger happy gun toting warlords as was the case before the occupation. In Panama, the invaders left behind a Government that is as corrupt as Noriega. And as for Grenada, it was more of a publicity campaign. It came at a time when Washington badly needed to show strength and it did, by knocking off the easiest target with the flimsiest excuse - that American medical students were in danger of being taken hostage by the US' foe in Grenada,

In all these operations, while the media focus of daily military debriefings on the fantastic futuristic armaments deployed and the casualties that the US suffered, not a mention's made of the injuries and death toll of the people in the invaded country. Behind the hype of such fairy tale wars, real people - the soft targets - suffer. Innocent people concerned about their next meal, what with their country's economy is shambles, an embargo in force and corruption going on, find themselves in the midst of such military might.

Modern weapon capabilities and potential's are advertised as news items. Further America's resolve ceases to be questioned when it comes to war, as the magical words of "national interest" echo without even a whisper of opposition. One must give due credit to how well colonising the Third World is packaged and sold to the world community. Then again, what else can we expect from the masters of advertising?

It was only as late as July of this year that elected President Bertrand Aristide in exile said "Never, never, never would I agree to be restored to power by an invasion", while American citizens

who lived in Haiti for years sent a letter to President Clinton urging him not to invade. To them and many other people who aspire to see democracy and enjoyment of human rights in third world

countries, the only means of gaining such a goal is through the right of the people to topple these corrupt, bloody military dictatorships.

The invasion of Haiti is not for

democracy. It never was and never will be. Rather it is an opportunity for the US to again flex its imperialist might on the third world/.

- ASA Movement News, Sept. 1994.

# Gay Oakes on Trial

On August 30th, **GAY OAKES** was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of her defacto husband, Doug Gardner. The justice system seemed simply to ignore the history of constant abuse Gay and her six children suffered at the hands of Doug Gardner. Despite evidence given by her doctor and women's refuge stating clearly that abuse was a reality for the whole family, battered women syndrome was again ignored and ridiculed. Police had on record the five non molestation orders that Gay had taken out against Doug, not to mention the long list of varying domestic violence complaints. Yet Gay's plea of provocation was quashed; the justice system says she is guilty of murder, not manslaughter. Sounds fair enough to you? **read on.**

*13 February 1987*

*Whakatane*

*R vs Rerekura*

Joseph Rerekura was told to "get out" by his wife Carol Ahipene. She told him she no longer loved him. In response Joseph got his hunting rifle out of his car and shot Carol in the head killing her instantly. The jury was satisfied that the break up of a relationship was provocation and the judge described Rerekura as a "thoroughly decent man".

Verdict: Manslaughter

*7 October 1980*

*Wellington*

*R vs Boyles*

Grenville Boyles killed both his wife

and her lover by stabbing them and cutting their throats after finding them in bed together. The jury was satisfied that he was provoked.

Verdict: Manslaughter

*14 December 1991*

*Wellington*

*R vs Stevens*

Owen Stevens stabbed his ex lover 15 times with a butcher's knife because she had recently ended their relationship. The jury was satisfied that he had been provoked by the victim's rejection of him.

Verdict: Manslaughter

*5 August 1980*

*Wellington*

*R vs Minnitt*

Dr David Minnitt shot and killed his wife Leigh at point blank range and said his penis was too small. The jury was satisfied this was sufficient provocation.

Verdict: Manslaughter

*August 9 1981*

*R vs Te Kani*

In the early hours of a Sunday morning Jack Te Kani arrived at the flat of his recently estranged wife. He became angry when he saw a love bite on her neck and demanded to know what was going on. When she admitted to sleeping with a friend the night before, he stabbed her several times with a knife from the kitchen. She died soon after. The jury saw her behaviour as adequate provocation.

Verdict: manslaughter

**Is it fair that we have a different standard of justice for women than for men?**

**What you can do:**

If you feel angry about the obvious bias and injustice of the Gay Oakes case and the New Zealand legal system, you can:

**- Write letters of support to Gay Oakes**

**Paparoa Prison  
Private Bag  
Christchurch**

**- Sign the petition that is currently circulating in support of Gay Oakes and battered women's syndrome, and/or give a donation to the Gay Oakes support fund**

**- Write letters expressing your feelings to the Minister of Justice**

**Doug Graham.  
Minister of Justice  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington  
(no stamp needed)**

**Contact for the Gay Oaks Support Group is  
C/o Women's Rights  
Collective**

**OUSA  
P.O. Box 1436 Dunedin**

# E-Mail Activism

Following on from my short description of electronic mail last month I thought that I would provide AYN with a bit more information on e-mail for the uninitiated, and a selection of lists that I am aware of, for those that are interested in subscribing to some progressive list servers. If anyone knows of any addresses for people or listservers that you think that the network might be interested in then send them to us, by snail mail, or e-mail me.

Electronic mail was originally developed by the US military to link it's military bases worldwide via computers. In the last few years it has spread rapidly throughout Western society, and in particular universities, which is why it is so useful for reaching other progressive students around the world.

An e-mail address acts similar to a normal, or snail mail address. If you read it from the back you can tell, country, type of institution, region, listserver (the computer that handles all the mail), and then an individual address, or name, which identifies the person. My address for example (kyle.matthews@stonebow.otago.ac.nz) is literally my name@the student listserver at Otago uni.the region.my institution (ac stands for academic, the other you will often see is edu, which is American for the same thing).and country (Americans as the original developer of the system have no country to tag onto the end of their addresses).

For activists e-mail provides the opportunity to meet and talk to people overseas who are doing similar things, to share information, to tell others what we are doing, and to hear what else is going on in the world that the media doesn't tell us about - unearthing of mass graves in Guatemala, riots in London over the new crime bill, ANU students occupying their chancellorry etc. It is an instantaneous service, so action alerts are common on e-mail, and if an institution will provide it for you it is free, though if you have to provide your own computer then once you are set up it is very cheap, as the phone lines are only occupied for a second at most. Lastly it provides us with a wonderful way to meet new people and to make wonderful friends.

Below are a number of listservers that I am aware of. To subscribe to them send messages with no subject, and with bodies like <help> or <subscribe "listname" "your name"> to the addresses at the beginning of each paragraph, and if they are multiple listservers (marked with a \*) then also send a message <lists> to see what else they contain.

listserv@burn.UCSD.EDU : \* This listserver provides you with a number of interesting lists. The two main ones are psnlist, which is the server for the Progressive Student Network (mainly American activists, and has lots of Haiti, and American politics), and a list called riot-l, which is a news server. The owner of riot-l goes through the days news, from Reuters, looking for words such as riot, protest, demonstration, bomb etc. and then sends out the most interesting ones. psnlist averages about 10 - 15 pieces of mail a week, and riot-l about twenty five. There is also an anarchists server at this address.

Majordomo@io.org : \* This has one good server on it - amnesty-l. This provides information on places like East Timor and some of the places that Amnesty International are into. Is not so much a list server as an information source - you have to go get the news stories off the server.

pnews-request@world.std.com : Big progressive news list server, which pumps out mail at between ten and twenty a day. Has the advantage of covering non-American student news, but is only for those who are serious - it will clog up your mailbox. Also has a discussion group attached for more in-depth news and debate.

listserv@missou1.missouri.edu : Holds a listserver called activ-l. Is an activists network, linking together a whole heap of stuff, with heaps of good info on Indonesia, America, Central America. Pumps out colossal amounts of mail, so most subscribers send the message <set activ-l index> to the server, which means that you get an index every day, and you chose which stories that you want to have sent to you. Highly recommended.

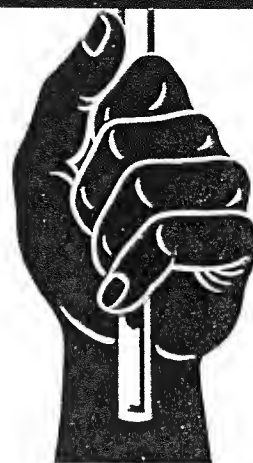
listserv@cmsa.berkeley.edu : \* Runs a list called left-l, which focuses upon building a democratic left. Quite new and dominated by discussion.

conberr@er.man.ac.uk : This is <moonchild>, the place to get updates on the McLibel campaign going on in London - interesting insight into what McDonalds really put into their food.

Best of luck for computing activism, and for those who aren't "on", you are missing out.....

• Kyle Matthews

UNITE  
AND  
ORGANISE



# Activism in Aotearoa

*Putting  
Democracy  
Into  
Action*

**January 20–24, 1995**

**Four days of fun in the sun learning  
skills for activism ... get ACTIVE!**

Brookfield Camp  
Moore's Valley  
Wellington

**COST: Students/Unwaged/Low waged: \$48 (\$40 with tent)  
Waged: \$88 (\$80 with tent)**

**Contact: Next Step Democracy Movement,  
PO Box 11-578, Wellington.  
Phone (04) 382-8146, fax (04) 382-8147,  
or your local Next Step contact:**

## Skills and thrills

*The workshops on offer include:*

Campaigning - strategy, planning, timing  
Publicity - from street art to  
desktop publishing

Using the media  
Research - getting  
your facts right  
Effective  
meetings -  
facilitation &  
consensus  
Administration  
Fundraising  
Direct action  
Street theatre  
Movement building  
Group building  
AND MORE!

*Panel discussions on:*

Democracy  
The activist lifestyle  
The media

Recreation, music, entertainment, time to  
explore the bush.....

### The cost...

Costs have been kept to a minimum to  
ensure that everyone who wants to come  
can come. All the food, accommodation  
(bunk room and marae style) and  
entertainment is included. If the price is  
still a problem, please just contact us.

## About the organisers

Activism in Aotearoa is being organised  
by the Next Step Democracy

Movement. This group is made up  
of people from the peace, union,  
and environment movements,  
and education and health  
activists - including many of  
the organisers of the Peace  
Power & Politics conference.

We are seeking to help  
reclaim the right of everyone  
to participate in our  
democracy. We want to  
encourage the resurgence of  
political activism.

That's why Activism in Aotearoa is  
focused on spreading around the skills  
and ideas of political activism!

In March we're launching a nationwide  
campaign, in the build up to the first  
MMP elections, which will lead to six  
referenda on issues that need to be  
debated in Aotearoa: health, education,  
military spending, energy conservation,  
employment and liveable incomes for all.

## Be part of the Action!

We're having a gathering this summer  
aimed at everyone - young and old,  
those new to campaigns and the  
more experienced - who wants to  
be more active.

The aim is to learn some useful  
and exciting skills over four  
days in January. Skills that  
you can put into action.

The gathering follows on from  
the 1993 Peace, Power and  
Politics Conference - the largest  
meeting of progressive people in  
Aotearoa for 25 years. This time the  
focus is on the skills and training needed  
to reclaim democracy in Aotearoa.

This is your chance to meet people from  
all over Aotearoa, people with experience  
and ideas about political activism.

It's a great chance to share ideas and  
skills, make new friends, and have fun in  
the sun!

# Letters to the Network

Dear AYN,

I am rendered almost speechless by Fergus Wheelers' recent contribution to your newsletter entitled 'Activism and Employment.' However, as it is almost always wiser to turn anger into response, I hope AYN will allow me space for a reply.

I have no problem with Fergus' call for more full time activists, or with his comments on the need for redefining what constitutes work. The unemployed movement in this generation has spent a lot of time on this question, and is very clear that there is much that can be and should be done to improve recognition for work currently not valued (eg looking after children, community work), bring in a shorter working week, and establish a Universal Basic Income which would bring much more choice into what people do with their lives.

But for Fergus to say "Fulltime work for all is a fool's call", and "It's important ... not to take the calls to create more jobs seriously ..." is a direct attack on all of us who are or have been activists in the unemployed movement since the early 1980's.

There haven't been all that many of us, but we have slogged it out, often on the dole, and with some of trying to bring up kids, so that people who aren't in work and want jobs can have them. Most unemployed people do desperately want work, at wages and conditions that allow them to feed and house themselves and their family.

To deny this is simply feeding the myth that we've always fought, that unemployed people don't want to work.

And how sound is an article on activism that disparages the work of committed activists just because we work in an area with which the author obviously lacks familiarity?

The unemployed movement has often come under fire from peace and green activists because we have not built up large campaigns and movements the way they have. Perhaps they do not understand that we are fighting from the bottom up, with and for the most dispossessed in Aotearoa. We don't have money, we have very few middle class (much less wealthy) supporters, and we surely don't have the media or any arm of the state on our side. Unemployed people are scattered, isolated and depressed. People are scared to come on our actions because the police have a tendency to arrests us and knock us about.

So we are a lot weaker than some of the other movements, but at least pockets of struggle have continued. And despite our weakness, our unemployed movement has survived and gone on in some places to build Peoples Centres which assist thousands of families to cope better with poverty and unemployment.

Further, as a mother bringing up children I feel very put down by this article. Does Fergus believe parents shouldn't be activists? It is all very well for people without children to choose to live on a benefit; but for those of us who have had enough hope in the future to have kids, actually choosing to live on the dole is very hard. Has he ever had to go to a foodbank to beg for food, or tried to feed a family on a sack of spuds for a week? And would Fergus want a future where no activists had children - why bother doing anything now if this is

the case?

In the Peoples Centre and Unemployed Rights Centre in Auckland our commitment is to trying to get as many people as possible, inside and outside our organisations, into paid work, with the ability to join a trade union: not to perpetuating unemployment. Our core group is made up of people, the majority with children, who are committed to the long haul of changing Aotearoa. We are not flash in the pan people who see activism as some kind of joke, or as a temporary aberration before going on to 'real work.'

We are committed to trying to work with people in other sectors. We see the linkage between movements, and support any moves to improve training, education and financial resourcing for all sectors.

Yes, we certainly need more full time activists in all the movements. But in this call, surely it is better for us to support each other and build each other up, not tear down one section so that others might theoretically do better. AS the old union saying goes, 'an injury to one is an injury to all' - think again, Fergus.

Sue Bradford.

Dear AYN,

Re the article on the Criminal Justice Bill in the last issue. It's not only Pagans and Ravers and Hippies (good quote for a title that one) who will be effected by it. The bill will also hit the most people in the world ... FOOTBALL FANS! Under the law, if passed by the Tory scum, Football Fans can be stopped from attending a match

simply because the filth decide they look dodgy. Peaceful demo's like the recent "Tim's for Change" in Scotland (a group of fans upset at the money grubbing swine in the management team at Sellick Football Club) will be deemed illegal. Anyone who looks like they might attend one of their protests outside the club HQ can be arrested and charged. To be suspected, all that is required is to be wearing the wrong colours at the wrong time.

I was a little disappointed to see that the article played down the new powers which the Polis will be given, particularly the right to forcibly detain and physically remove hair samples and mouth swabs for the purposes of establishing a DNA data base. There is no requirement for the person being databases to have actually committed any crime, or even be suspected of committing a crime - simply being within reach is enough. Think about it, it's not a pleasant thought.

Anyway, enough co-ranting,

P.S. From "Sick in the Basin", the latest Jags fanzine.

A campaign calling itself Football Fans Against the Criminal Justice Bill has been set up to warn supporters against the draconian threat to our civil liberties posed by this bill. The implications of this proposed legislation are truly horrific. For eg., Clause 76 will introduce Police powers to stop and search without reason, ANY vehicle or person going to match. Under Clauses 63 / 64 of the Bill many forms of peaceful protest will become a criminal act. This means for eg. That the recent Celts for Change protest of Spurs demos outside the courts could easily be made illegal. You can even be arrested on the grounds of 'reasonable suspicion' that you are attending such an event. Under clauses 49 / 51 the Police will also be empowered to forcibly take a mouth swab or pluck hair from

anyone arrested at a game for the purposes of setting up a DNA database.

**The campaign can be contacted at FFACJB, Bluebird Jones, 352, Southwyck House, Moorlands Estate, Brixton, London SW98TT. Ph. 071-737-4845, e-mail football@agog.demon.co.uk**

**Peace, Love and Mungbeans,**

**Mark Grindlay.**

**Dear AYN,**

We feel it is time to stimulate discussion on a subject that, though dear to the hearts of some, for others is becoming too close for comfort. Having both been nobbled (in the words of one) and snaffled (in the words of the other) in one day by over exuberant acolytes of the Next Step Campaign, we took a look at what all the fuss was about. Serious questions have suggested themselves.

Firstly, the Next Step Democracy Campaign claim it intends to "promote public discussion" (AYN 14), but how can you promote public debate when the only choice inherent in the questionnaire is to say yes or no to pre-established values? No room is left for debate or alteration - the individual has no opportunity to express personal opinion. If, at this stage, there are many people who disagree with, for example, the priorities of the environmental question, in what way could this be resolved?

Unlike most major campaigns this country has seen, Next Step appears not to have grown from grassroots opinion; rather it has been engineered by a small, self-appointed taskforce, membership of which at the crucial stages was by invitation only. This top-down approach whilst being efficient (as many a dictator has discovered), lends a new definition to "democracy".

Does the Next Step actually have a

mandate that justifies its intention to "set the political agenda for the next election"? Is it not arrogant for this small group to define what are the most important issues for all New Zealanders? What about the Treaty, domestic violence, solidarity with other nations, asset sales, protection of native bush...? Some people take these issues quite seriously.

Another concern is the way that the campaign has been promoted. An article in AYN 14 recommends that young activists get "stuck into" this campaign as "something to do" without giving any good reasons why they should spend time and energy on this particular project.

It is ironic that a movement that defines itself as paving the way to democracy is selling itself in the same way as the political parties we are all so disillusioned with. \* Next Steppers are being asked to place faith in the campaign in the same way as we asked to place faith in the policy of established parties. Why should we all believe in these people any more than the politicians we love to hate?

So far this campaign has been sold.. Shouldn't it be explained why Next Step is likely to succeed and why it deserves to? *Why should we believe the hype?* For those of us who have not yet seen the light, the subtlety of Jehovah's Witnesses would be a welcome alternative to the steady stream of Next Steppers coming to offer us salvation.

This is a campaign that carries serious ethical implications in terms of the responsibility inherent in such an agenda. While not opposed to free health and education or the other goals stated, the wide scope of the campaign and the way that it has developed in its early stages raise issue which we would not want to see threaten its future success.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Kate Andrews and Amy Rountree.**

# Protests Against The Crime Bill

The response to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill in Britain is loud and clear. As was said last month, anyone with a tad of social conscience is on the streets protesting about this Bill. The reasons why are varied but the crux of the matter is that the Bill threatens to give Police extreme power over civilians. The people it will effect the most are those poverty-stricken and those demonstrating about those people who are poverty-stricken. And yes, oh my god! It will effect football fans too. Read your last AYN for details. We are going to relate some of the details that have come over the internet about the protests. However, please remember these have been written by the mainstream media and therefore are written from the perspective of the powerful elite.

LONDON, Oct. 20th. British police on Thursday charged eighteen people after a protest outside parliament against a new law-and-order bill erupted into running battles.

The trouble erupted (people were upset) when (because) the crowd was confronted by 1,000 police officers as it swept through (people marched) central London towards the Houses of Parliament. Protesters were 'pushed back' by mounted police. The police blamed a group of about 400 troublemakers (concerned citizens, protesters) for the violent clashes.

The new bill weakens a traditional right to silence, tightens the law to prevent squatting and lets police break up groups of nine or more people if they suspect the gathering MIGHT be a threat to public order. (Read the thorough version of the effect that this law will have in last month's AYN)

The protest on 9th October was a

much bigger affair and the media decided to label it as the 'worst riot since an anti-racism demonstration turned violent a year ago'. Why? 17 civilians and eight police officers were taken to hospital and there were 26 arrests at the time.

As a result of the protest, 11 people were arrested and witnesses cited many protesters being hurt. 12 people, including six police officers and a member of

parliament (he slipped over and hurt his back) were injured.

Parliamentarians were upset at the result of people's anger about the proposed bill. (but will they withdraw the bill?) The response, as usual, was that "the crowd should be removed as soon as possible, the time has come when this should not be allowed to happen!" Whose civil liberties are allowed to be infringed?

## Young Socialist Leader Comes to Speak

**HERE!!  
YOUNG SOCIALIST LEADER  
FROM THE UNITED STATES:**

**REBECCA GTTLEMAN  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO  
WILL SPEAK ON:**

Defending the Cuban revolution,  
Opposing US military  
Interventionism in Haiti and Iraq,  
The unfolding democratic  
revolution in South Africa, Union  
struggles in the US and  
Defending a women's right to  
choose abortion, among many  
other things.

**DATES:  
MILITANT LABOUR FORUMS**

**Christchurch:**

Saturday October 29th, 7pm.  
Pathfinder Press Bookshop.  
Donation: \$3  
199 High St, Ph: (03) 365-6055.

**Wellington:**

Monday October 31st, 7pm.  
Friends Meeting House  
7 Moncrieff St, Mt Victoria.  
Donation: \$3  
Ph: (04) 569-3723.

**Auckland:**

Friday November 4th, 7pm.  
Pathfinder Press Bookshop.  
Donation \$3  
203 Karangahape Road (opposite  
McDonalds)  
Ph: (09) 379-3075. Donation: \$3.

Possible meeting in Hamilton,  
Thursday 3rd November.

**For any further information,  
contact**

**Anna Lucia Vermunt**

**Ph: (09) 376-2501  
379-3075**

**Fax: 358-3724.**

**If You are a student  
and are changing your  
address over the sum-  
mer, please do not  
forget to contact AYN  
111 Moray Place,  
Dunedin. and notify  
us if you would like to  
continue receiving  
AYN.**

# Voices from the Philippines

## PHILIPPINE PROTEST SINGERS TO VISIT AOTEAROA

Leading Philippine protest singers Paul Galang and Timoteo Torre from the Philippine musicians' organisation PAKOMPIL will be visiting Aotearoa-New Zealand in October and November.

Cultural work has long been an important part of the Philippine peoples' movement as music, drama, art and other creative tools are used in work for political and social change.

Musicians from Pakompil have risked violence and arrest to sing songs of the peoples' movement. They also work to establish a musicians union in the Philippines.

**Paul Galang** is one of the Philippines' leading nationalist folksingers, who is a familiar and popular performer at rallies, concerts and folkhouses. In addition to his work in the Philippines he has regularly toured in Europe and Japan. In spite of his popularity, commercial companies dared not record his music during the Marcos years, but he now has several independent produced recordings. He has won many awards including "Folksinger of the Year" in the Philippines in 1990.

**Timoteo Torre** is Secretary-General of Pakompil, and has worked as a folksinger and cultural worker for many years. He was also a union leader in a ceramics factory. He is increasingly in demand as a performer and has toured in Japan for the trade union group Zenko.

### CONCERT ITINERARY

October 20: Palmerston North Globe Theatre, 7.30pm, \$7 waged/\$5 unwaged/\$6 union members; with the Brazen Hussies.

October 24th: Wellington labour Day Concert, Admission free, Boat Shed, Wellington harbour front, 2-5pm; with other union singers.

November 3: Newtown Community Centre, Wellington, 7.30pm, \$6/\$4.

November 12th: Super 8 (Under Zenith cafe), Moray Place, Dunedin, 9pm, \$5.

November 16: Auckland concert, St Paul's Hall, Ponsonby, 7.30pm; with Chris Skinner and the Auckland Street Theatre Group.

Their itinerary also includes cultural work workshops, musicians' union exchange, meetings and workplace visits.

Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links gratefully acknowledges funding from the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa.

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## Around the Regions

### Auckland:

Things are hotting up in Auckland for a demonstration on November 5th at the opening of ACT (Association of Criminals and Thieves). This demo is called Counteract and is being organised by the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre and the Communist Party. Contact Sue Bradford at the Peoples Centre for details. The other news on Auckland campus, is that after petitioning the University Council, varsity fees for students are now going up \$56 per student rather than \$200 per student. Great news!

### Palmerston North:

Well those on campus who are part of the AYN network have been busy. The University Disciplinary Committee have been under scrutiny for their ability to give students harsh fines and hours of community service as a result of students breaking bottles at parties, etc. Steve Collett has been removed from this committee after writing a letter to them expressing his concerns. Another victory for students in Palmerston North is that all university flats are now under the Residential Tenancy Act. This means that those students who were previously being given fines for drinking in the corridor and having their rooms checked

without notice will be given a bit more respect. You will also not have to carry your identification card at all times.

Women Against Pornography are playing an active role in the future of Palmerston city by writing a submission for a twenty-year plan to rid the city of pornography. They would like Palmerston North to become a City of Respect towards women, especially. They also have been petitioning a new sex shop in the city called Barbarellas which has been found to be very offensive to women. Send us some petitions down to Dunedin!!

### Wellington:

East Timor Action have been continuing to highlight atrocities against the East Timorese, by the Indonesians so watch out for protests if you are a Wellingtonian. You may also notice that there are two new Wellington contacts for Aotearoa Youth Network: Emma Haxton and Alistair Shaw. They are setting up an AYN group if you would like to be involved.

Also, Porirua is setting up a Youth Council after the amazing efforts of Don Borre. Emma Haxton is going to be involved in setting this up so any support from other young people would be highly appreciated.

# Regional Contacts

## Auckland:

David Flemming  
33b Birdwood Cres.  
Parnell  
Ph: 358-4811

## Hamilton:

Dale Frew  
PO Box 9578  
Ph: 824-4480

## Catherine Hodges

34 Harwood St  
PO Box 9053  
Ph: 839-0094  
Fax: 838-0398.

## Palmerston North:

Duncan Killiner  
17 Worchester St.  
Ph: 3549932.

or

c/o MUSA  
Post Box  
Massey University.  
Ph: 357-4121  
Fax: 354-2756  
(Jamie Bichan and Steve  
Collett can also be contacted  
about AYN.)

## Wellington:

Alistair Shaw  
13 Hall St  
Newtown  
Ph: 389-7665

## Emma Haxton

Kilbirnie Youth Centre  
Ph: 384-8301

## Nelson:

Kate McPherson  
23 Wellington St  
Ph: 548-9036

As Kate is on the move and  
working in Wellington she is  
looking for someone to take  
her place as a contact in  
Nelson. Are you interested?

## Christchurch:

Melanie Thomson  
39 Holly Rd.  
Ph: 355-7975  
(If anyone else from Christ-  
church would like to be a contact  
please get in touch with the  
collective in Dunedin and  
Melanie in Christchurch)

## Dunedin:

Cybele Locke  
17 Blacks Rd.  
North East Valley  
Ph: 473-0684.

The E-mail address for AYN is:  
[kyle.matthews@stonebow.otago.ac.nz](mailto:kyle.matthews@stonebow.otago.ac.nz)

Dear AYNers!!

Well it is that time of the  
month again and for once the  
sun is streaming down in the  
deep south. As I am moving  
to Auckland for a couple of  
months to try and find work,  
AYN is coming too. Mailing  
box is exactly the same, the  
magazine will just be pro-  
duced from Auckland. I am  
not leaving until late Novem-  
ber, however. Kyle  
Matthews will be there help-  
ing also. Anyway, if any of  
you are in Auckland over  
December/January please  
contact me at 39 First Ave  
Kingsland, Auckland. Ph:  
8464437 if you would like to  
help produce the magazine.  
The Collective will probably  
stay fairly much the same  
next year with Melanie  
Lovell-Smith designing most  
of the covers, Kyle, Anna  
Kraack, Catriona and Joss  
Debreceeny putting the maga-  
zine together. All of these  
people are involved in the  
Education Action Group on  
campus and various other  
political projects. I will not  
be so involved next year as I  
have to write my honours  
dissertation at varsity but I  
will be paying more attention  
to the National networking  
side of things. Thanks for  
those of you who sent in  
money - finances are always  
tight! All of your efforts to  
contribute are always appre-  
ciated.  
Lots of love,  
Cybele, with lots of help from  
Joss, Melanie and Kyle.

There is an article  
on page eight for  
those of you who  
are interested in  
how to use e-mail  
and how it works.



# SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$9 UNWAGED  
\$18 WAGED  
\$25 ORGANISATION  
\$50 INSTITUTION.

THIS SUBSCRIPTION IS FOR A WHOLE YEAR.  
HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD THIS  
PLEASE SEND US YOUR ADDRESS AND WE  
WILL SEND YOU THE MAGAZINE.

WHEN I GIVE FOOD TO THE POOR,  
THEY CALL ME A SAINT.



WHEN I ASK WHY THE POOR  
HAVE NO FOOD,  
THEY CALL ME A COMMUNIST.

DOM HELDER  
CAMARA.

Aotearoa Youth Network  
111 Moray Place  
Dunedin

*Handwritten signature: Hayden*